THE FALL OF THE JLA

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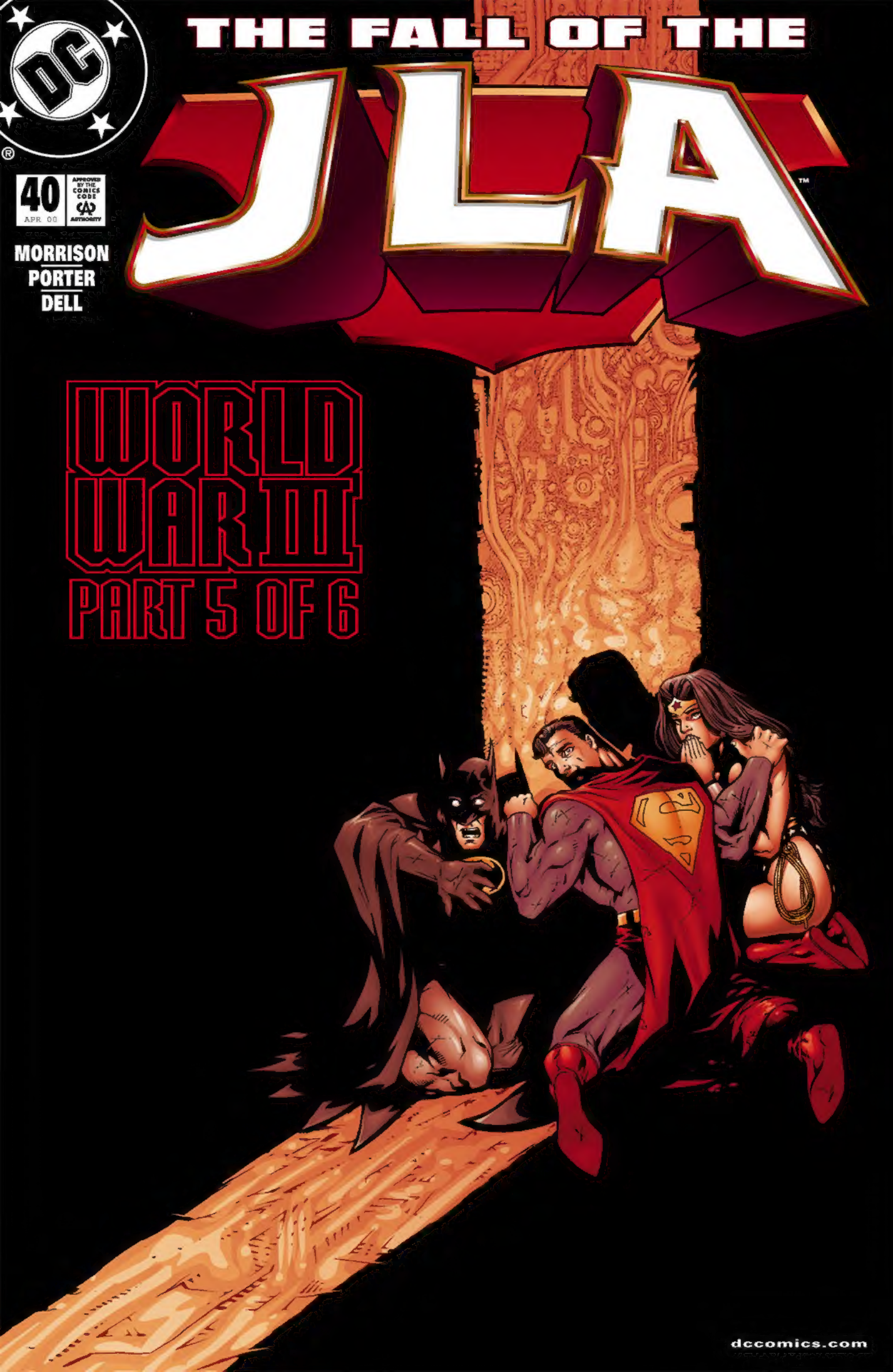
MORRISON
PORTER
DELL

WORLD WAR III
PART 5 OF 6



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...THIS IS ORACLE WITH A DIGITAL TELEPATHY UPDATE! EARTH IS AT WAR!
OFFICIAL ENEMIES OF THE UNITED STATES NOW INCLUDE CHINA, JAPAN, RUSSIA, EUROPE...
THE ONCOMING MAGEDDON WEAPON IS NOW CLEARLY VISIBLE IN THE NIGHT SKY.
AND... GREEN LANTERN'S MIND JUST WENT OUT.
...PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. TERRIFIED, PARANOID. LASHING OUT AT ONE ANOTHER.
SOMETHING'S MAKING IT STRONGER! I CAN FEEL IT GETTING STRONGER.
...AH...
OH, GOD, THAT WAS PAKISTAN. KARACHI'S RETALIATING... MISSILES AIMED AT NEW DELHI... PACIFIC RIM FORCES ARE MOVING TOWARDS LOS ANGELES...
LAST CHANCE TO SAVE THE WORLD, GUYS.

BOOM!

GET ME TACTICAL.

PART FIVE

WORLD WAR THREE

GRANT MORRISON-WRITER HOWARD PORTER-PENCILLER
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PAT GARRAHY-COLORIST HEROIC AGE-SEPARATOR
TONY BEDARD-ASSOC. EDITOR DAN RASPLER-EDITOR

EARTH ORBIT:
UH.
THE LAST THING I SAY IS "UH"?
THAT IS SO LAME.
I'M SUPPOSED TO SAY: "I DIED SAVING THE UNIVERSE LIKE ALL THE GOOD SUPERHEROES..."
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE EXPLODING EYEBALLS FIRST, SPECIAL EFFECTS STYLE.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD IN SPACE WITHOUT MY POWER RING.
SO WHERE AM I AND WHO AM I TALKING TO?...
...UH...
METRON?
REGARD THIS ORGANISM; THIS PRODIGY AMONG THE STARS...

THIS EARTH.
ITS EXPRESSIVE DIVERSITY OF CREATION. ITS SELF-EVOLVING PERFECTION.
AND SOIL FERTILE ENOUGH TO GROW GODS IF SPARED THE WRATH OF THE LAST SURVIVOR OF A WAR THAT ENDED IN FIRE 15 BILLION YEARS FROM HERE.
PRESERVE THIS WORLD!
I'D DIE TO SAVE THIS PLACE, MAN. I'M SERIOUS!
I'LL DIE A HUNDRED TIMES OVER FOR EVERY LIVING THING ON THIS PLANET IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES!
BUT MAGEDDON KILLED MY RING... I'M JUST KYLE RAYNER... I'M A FREELANCE ARTIST WHO WORKS OUT... I'M JUST THIS GUY, YOU KNOW?
IS THAT MAGEDDON'S WILL?
OR IS IT YOURS?
AS NEW GENESIS IS TO THE FOURTH WORLD, EARTH SHALL BE TO THE FIFTH THAT IS TO COME.

?
...GREEN LANTERN! YOU'RE SAFE!
AH, HI, ORACLE. YEAH, I'M OKAY. METRON SHOWED UP.
THANK GOD WE HAVE SOMEONE IN OUR CORNER.
I DON'T KNOW IF HE SAVED ME FOR NOTHING, ORACLE.
THE POWER RING'S OUT OF JUICE AND NOTHING I DO--
LET ME THROUGH! CAPTAIN ATOM TOOK A SIDEWINDER MISSILE IN THE FACE OVER HAWAII.
SMASHED MOST OF HIS JAW. FRACTURED HIS SKULL.
...LANNERN... JUSSIS LEAGUE...
...FINISH THIS...
YOU BET.
HANG IN THERE, DUDE. WE GOT A PURPLE RAY SET UP IN THE INFIRMARY. YOU'LL BE GOOD AS NEW.
LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

HUNTRESS! HEY! YOU GOT OUT OF THE WATCHTOWER OKAY?
HAVE YOU SEEN ZAURIEL?
HE FIRED ME.
BATMAN FIRED ME FROM THE LEAGUE.
...WHAT?...
ARE YOU THE GREEN LANTERN OR WHAT?
HEY, TAKE A BREAK, KYLE. UNCA WARRIOR SAYS YOU NEED IT... RING OR NO RING.
YOU GOTTA STOP TAKING ME SO SERIOUSLY.
I WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO START BUT...THANKS, GUY.
MAYBE I JUST NEED A LITTLE TIME ON MY OWN.
OKAY.
MAGEDDON, HUH?
YOU AND ME, DUDE.

VENICE BEACH, LOS ANGELES:

METROPOLIS:

...ARSENAL!

WELL, YOU SAID IMPROVISE!

INCOMING OVER RAJASTHAN! THERE ARE SIX MILLION PEOPLE IN DELHI!

FIRESTORM! IS THAT YOU? CHANGE THE URANIUM IN THE WARHEADS TO MAGNESIUM. IT'LL COMBUST IN CONTACT WITH OXYGEN...

NICE IDEA.

SORRY IF I YELLED AT YOUR MIND.

AH, NO PROBLEM, I'M KINDA USED TO VOICES IN MY HEAD.

GOT 'EM!

WE HAVE MORE: THE USA JUST TARGETED CHINA AND CANADA!

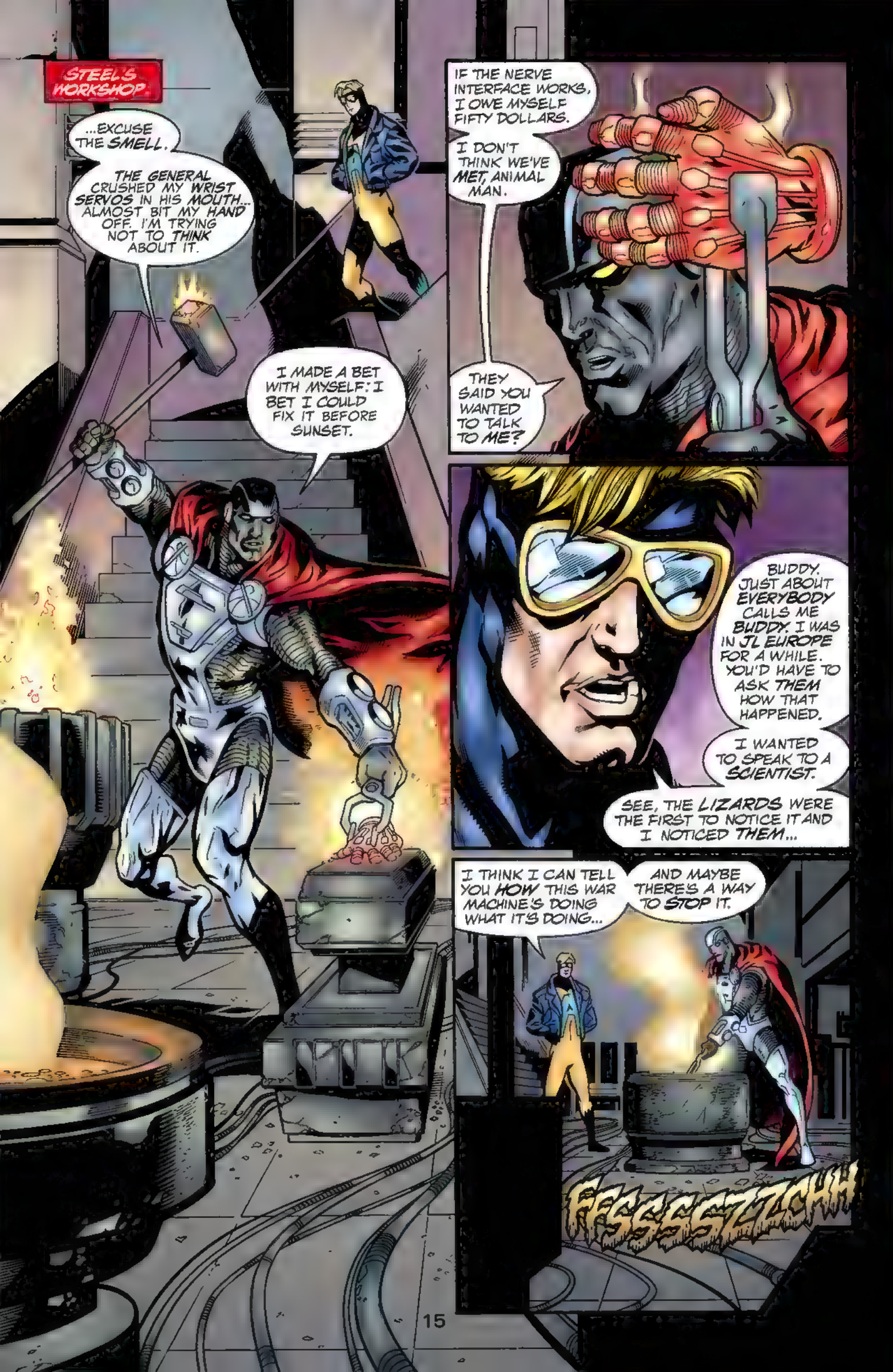
NEW YORK CITY:
PLASTIC MAN!
YOU HAD A PLAN!
SEBBLE URBB
QUEEN TO SZZWARM:
THE HIVE IS UNDER THREAT! THE ROYAL EGGMATRIX MUST BE PROTECTED!
RETURN.
THOSE SOLDIERS COULDN'T SEE YOU... BEE BEHAVIOR...
OF COURSE! I'M AN IDIOT!
YOPP.
PREPARE TO STERILIZZZE THE ENTIRE ENVIRONMENT IN A RADIUSZZ OF EIGHTEEN LOCAL MILESZZ.

PRESZZZERVE THE QUEEN!
BARDA!
GREAT HERA! SHE'S KILLING BARDA!
STEEL?...
SHE CAN'T SEE THE RED END OF THE SPECTRUM, WONDER WOMAN. NONE OF THEM CAN.
AND I HAVE A PORTABLE BOOM TUBE.
YOU CAN HANDLE THESE THINGS?
NO PROBLEM.
HURRY! BARDA NEEDS HELP!
...UURRRR
FEED HER TO THE LARVAE.

EXCUSE ME, YOUR MAJESTY --ALLOW ME TO ESCORT YOU FROM THE PREMISES...
YOUR "INJUSTICE GANG" IS FINISHED AND WE HAVE MORE PRESSING MATTERS TO ATTEND...
ZZZZZZIIIII
UNHAND ME, CZZYBORG!
THHAANNG
QUEEN TO SZZWARM: ON MY COMMAND COMMENCZZE SZZTERILIZZATION BOMB...
BOOM
GOTCHA.
...WHAT ISZZ THISZZ?...
STEEL'S BOOM TUBE GENERATOR...
WE STING TOO.
NO!

WHUNNTCH
NNNEEUUU
ZZZ!!!
BARDA!
BEES.
THE SWARM GOES WHERE THE QUEEN GOES.
I SENT HER STRAIGHT BACK HOME TO THE HIVEWORLD AND THEY'RE ALL FOLLOWING.
THEY'RE GONE.

JLA EMBASSY
CLEAR THE WAY!
BARDA HAS FALLEN.
COUNTLESS LETHAL STINGS... SHE NEEDS EMERGENCY TREATMENT OR SHE'LL DIE...
PLASTIC MAN TOO...
BARDA. MY WIFE...
I MUST GET HER TO THE SOURCE CHAMBER ON NEW GENESIS. I'M SORRY I...
SHE GAVE HER ALL FOR US.
YOU TOO, SCOTT.
GO.
I'LL TAKE OVER FROM HERE.
I'LL TRY TO RETURN AS SOON AS I CAN, WONDER WOMAN.
BOOM!
...OH, HERA, PRESERVE US...
DIANA, IT'S NOT OVER YET.
WE'RE NEEDED.
I KNOW.
EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE JLA.


STEEL'S WORKSHOP.
...EXCUSE THE SMELL.
THE GENERAL CRUSHED MY WRIST SERVOS IN HIS MOUTH... ALMOST BIT MY HAND OFF. I'M TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
I MADE A BET WITH MYSELF: I BET I COULD FIX IT BEFORE SUNSET.
IF THE NERVE INTERFACE WORKS, I OWE MYSELF FIFTY DOLLARS.
I DON'T THINK WE'VE MET, ANIMAL MAN.
THEY SAID YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME?
BUDDY. JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY CALLS ME BUDDY. I WAS IN JL EUROPE FOR A WHILE. YOU'D HAVE TO ASK THEM HOW THAT HAPPENED.
I WANTED TO SPEAK TO A SCIENTIST.
SEE, THE LIZARDS WERE THE FIRST TO NOTICE IT AND I NOTICED THEM...
I THINK I CAN TELL YOU HOW THIS WAR MACHINE'S DOING WHAT IT'S DOING...
AND MAYBE THERE'S A WAY TO STOP IT.
FSSGGZZCHH

...WE'RE TRYING TO FIGHT TO END WAR? IT'S A PARADOX. WE OURSELVES ARE DOING THE WARBRINGER'S WORK OUT THERE IN OUR OWN WAY...
I SAW WONDERWORLD WRECKED. THE GREATEST CHAMPIONS OF ALL TIME MURDERED ONE ANOTHER AT MAGEDDON'S BIDDING.
LET'S HOPE WE'RE DIFFERENT.
WE HAVEN'T TURNED ON ONE ANOTHER YET.
FOR HOW LONG?
NOTHING WE DO SEEMS TO STEM THE VIOLENCE. THE FEROCITY OF THE ESCALATION.
OUR PEOPLE ARE TIRING.
WE ARE NOT YET WITHOUT HOPE, DIANA.
SHORTLY AFTER YOUR MISSION TO WONDERWORLD, THE FLASH REPORTED CERTAIN UNUSUAL FLUCTUATIONS IN WHAT HE CALLS THE "SPEED FORCE," THE SOURCE OF HIS AND SEVERAL OTHERS' HYPER-VELOCITY ABILITIES.
PERHAPS NOT ALL OF WONDERWORLD WAS LOST.
THE FLASH WILL RETURN SOON.
WE ARE FAR FROM ALONE IN OUR STRUGGLE TO SUCCEED WHERE THOSE CHAMPIONS FAILED.
THERE ARE MANY POWERS IN THE COSMOS...

MAYBE, BUT I'LL STICK TO THE PRACTICAL, J'ONN.
RIGHT NOW SUPERMAN AND ORION ARE OUR BEST HOPE.
I LEFT PARADISE ISLAND ON A MISSION OF PEACE...
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY.
SUPERMAN JUST THREW HIMSELF INTO A BOOM TUBE WITH ORION, DIDN'T HE?
WHY DOES HE DO THESE THINGS?
I KNOW. SOMETIMES HE FORGETS WE'RE ALL AS RESPONSIBLE AS HE IS.
..STEEL?
ANIMAL MAN..?
HI, J'ONN. ELLEN SENDS HER LOVE.
SORRY TO INTERRUPT BUT WE HAVE SOME NEWS...
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO THIS MAN.

WHUMM
...WE START IMMEDIATELY!
ALERT EVERYONE!
WE HAVE A PLAN!
J'ONN, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? CONTACT WITH MAGEDDON WAS TRAUMATIC FOR YOU BEFORE.
YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO BE ALONE?
SUPERMAN AND ORION VANISHED INTO MAGEDDON'S PSYCHIC EVENT HORIZON BUT I MUST ATTEMPT THIS TELEPATHIC SEARCH.
WE HAVE TO KNOW IF THEY'VE SUCCEEDED.
YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.
J'ONN...
...I KNOW YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT FASCINATED BY WHAT YOU ENCOUNTERED OUT THERE.
BE CAREFUL: "THE ABYSS GAZES ALSO..." AS THEY SAY.

SUPERMAN. ORION.
...ARE YOU THERE?...
...SUFFOCATING CLOUDS... IS THERE ANYONE?...
NO REAL MIND THERE... MECHANICAL MOVEMENT OF BASIC DIRECTIVES ACROSS VAST DISTANCES... SO HUGE AND SIMPLE AND IMPLACABLE... REPTILIAN... AS ANIMAL MAN SAID...
TOO PRIMITIVE TO REASON WITH... IT BRINGS MASS EXTINCTION...
DESTROY... ANNIHILATE. CONVERT ALL LIFE INTO DEATH... URR... FUEL FOR THE WARBRINGER...
...URRRNN... IS THERE ANYBODY? IS THERE...
...AM MAH-GEH-DUN!
...A GREAT SUFFERING PRESENCE THERE... CHAINED AND DESPAIRING... MAH-GEH-DUN... TURNING THE ENDLESS MILLWHEELS...

MOONS OF MARS.
SUPERMAN.
MAH-GEH-DUN!
NO.
KKRAAKAVOOM

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
FORMATION, PEOPLE! IF IT'S HOSTILE, GO FOR ITS...
...IT'S OKAY... 'SOKAY...
AT LST IT IS IF I'M NT ON SME PARALLEL EARTH AGN...
IS THAT YOU, GUY GARDNER? IS THIS ME?
NOW THT WS A RUN.
HOW BAD? KEY WRDS! FLL ME IN.
FLASH. STOP TALKING FOR A SECOND.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE?
I BROUGHT HELP.
TO BE CONCLUDED IN NEXT MONTH'S
DOUBLE-SIZED SPECTACULAR!

" [A] comic legend."
– ROLLING STONE

GRANT MORRISON

"[Grant Morrison is] comics's high shaman."
– WASHINGTON POST

"[Grant Morrison] is probably my favorite writer. That guy has more ideas in his pinky than most people do in a lifetime."
– GERARD WAY
from MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE

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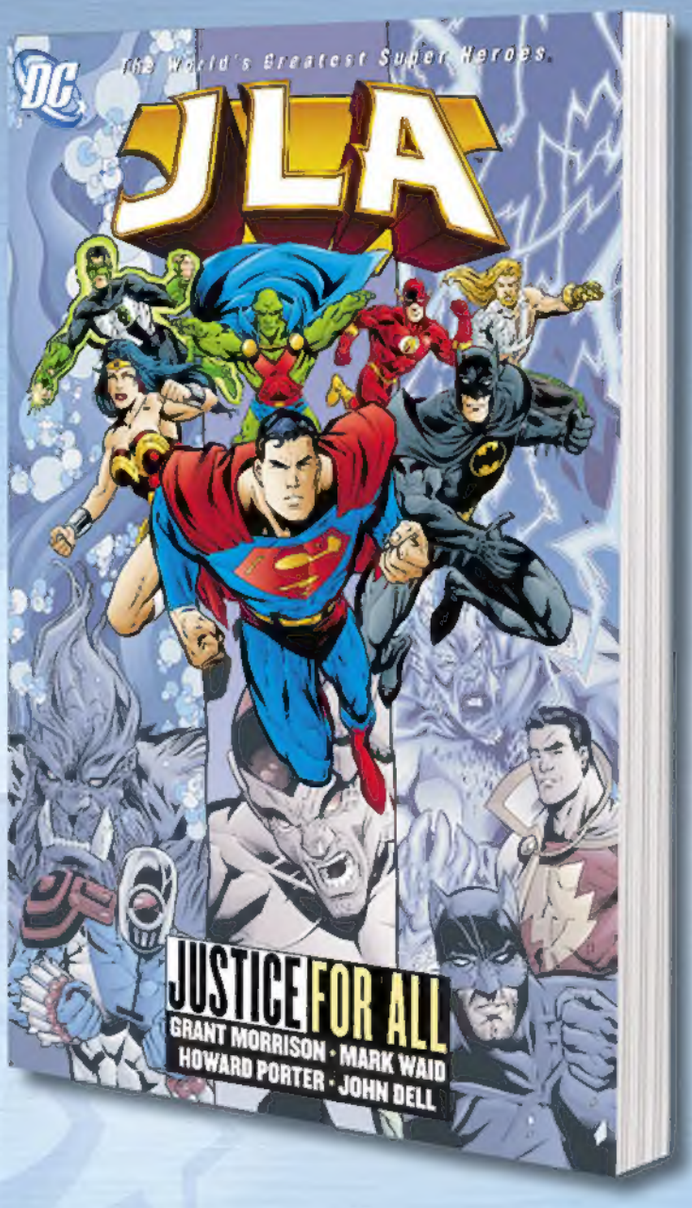

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